

Application No.:09/909.330
Amendment dated: September 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2003

b.) Remarks

Claims 1-16 and 18-28 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove. Claim 17 has been cancelled. New Claims 25-28 have been added to alternatively define Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-24 were rejected for being indefinite.

Specifically relative to claim 1, "fixed wavelength, external cavity" was deemed unsupported by the claim body. This has been removed rendering the claim broader.

Relative to claim 21, concerning attachment methods and specific spectral filter materials, Applicant does not wish to restrict the claims to any one attachment method or material system. The "intracavity composite filtering structure" was deemed unsupported by the claim body. This has been removed rendering the claim broader.

Claims 1-24 were rejected as being anticipated by the Flanders, *et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires that the "temperature of the system is allowed to fluctuate with ambient temperature while the modulation system modulates the optical length of the laser cavity to change spectral locations of longitudinal modes of the laser cavity relative to the filter function". In contrast, the Flanders, *et al.* patent discusses the use of a cooler under the bench.

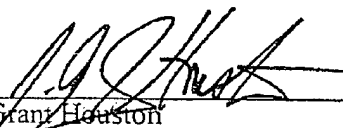
Claim 21 concerns a filtering structure in which a rotator and collimating lens are attached to spectral filter material. This is not shown by the applied reference.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections.

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Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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